



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **PRESS OFFICE**

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## ***SBA, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS JOIN TO PROMOTE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT***

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) have formed a partnership to encourage small business growth and development through local outreach and increased participation in SBA business development programs.

The historic joint effort is detailed in a partnership agreement signed by SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, president of USCM, during a ceremony held this week in Washington.

**“We all have a role to play in opening the doors of opportunity wide enough so that everyone can enter,”** Administrator Alvarez said. **“With this agreement, the Conference of Mayors and the SBA are cementing a relationship that will help entrepreneurs all across the country establish and build small businesses.”**

**“This agreement will help the SBA achieve its mission: building communities, one small business at a time,”** added Administrator Alvarez. **“Small businesses are the building blocks of sustainable communities. This is an arena where our interests clearly coincide with those of the Conference of Mayors.”**

USCM is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations greater than 30,000. USCM focuses national urban policy that affects the sustainable development and growth of cities across the United States.

The agreement signed this week between SBA and USCM includes:

- Undertaking a comprehensive outreach program to encourage small businesses to use SBA resources, including finance, contracting and technical assistance programs;
- Establishing and co-chairing a Small Business Task Force to explore innovative ways in which local mayors can work with federal agencies for the benefit of small businesses;
- Present seminars and other business training events on SBA programs to encourage potential borrowers and lenders;
- Share SBA’s *PRO-Net database*, an Internet-based electronic gateway of procurement information for and about small business.

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*For more information on all of SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA’s extensive website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).*